UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/667,302	09/23/2003	Hidenori Shindoh	243008US2	9279

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OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
1940 DUKE STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER
NGUYEN, ALLEN H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2625	

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
12/31/2007	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

patentdocket@oblon.com
oblonpat@oblon.com
jgardner@oblon.com

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>11 October 2007</u>.

2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b) ☐ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) <u>1-12</u> is/are pending in the application.

   4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) <u>1-12</u> is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on <u>23 September 2003</u> is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

   Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

   Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

   a) ☒ All   b) ☐ Some *   c) ☐ None of:

   1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

   2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

   3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

   * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

- This office action is responsive to the following communication:

  Amendment filed on 10/11/2007.

- Claims 1-12 are currently pending in the application.

Response to Arguments

1.   Applicant's arguments filed 10/11/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

2.   With respect to applicant's argument that color conversion circuit 304 of Tanio does not convert between a first format and second format, where each format is chosen from among a multi-value format.

In reply: It is noted that Tanio '389 does not disclose an image data converting unit configured to convert a format of image data from a first format to a second format, said first format and said second format each being one of a multi-value format.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as evidenced by Mizuyama '043. In particular, Mizuyama '043 teaches an image data converting unit configured to convert a format of image data from a first format to a second format, said first format and said second format each being a multi-value format (i.e., the device may output data in a data format other than multi-value data for each channel: the device may output data in RGB or

other formats that is can be converted to the aforementioned multi-value data

and vice versa; see col. 31, lines 10-20).

In view of the above, having the system of Tanio and then given the well-

established teaching of Mizuyama, it would have been obvious to one having

ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the

system of Tanio as taught by Mizuyama to include: an image data converting

unit configured to convert a format of image data from a first format to a second

format, said first format and said second format each being a multi-value format,

since a such modification would provide a multi-vendor network environment

documents may be sent from one user to another user wherein each user may

utilize different document editors to work with the document. In situations in

which each user desires to edit the document within a different format it is

therefore necessary to provide document transformation applications which may

be utilized to convert the document from an original document type to a second

document type which is manipulatable by the receiver.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for

all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described
> as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to
> be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been
> obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which
> said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the
> invention was made.

4.   Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Tanio (US 5,930,389) in view of Mizuyama et al. (US 6,813,043).

Regarding claim 1, Tanio '389 discloses an apparatus for forming an

image, in which hardware resources (103, 104, 223, 224, fig. 1) for use in the

forming of the image are provided (a hardware circuit, col. 10, line 49), and a

program runs in respect of the forming of the image (a module construction of the

control program which operates on the CPU2 side, col. 8, lines 43-44, fig. 6, a

module 701), said apparatus comprising:

a format unifying unit (101, fig. 1) configured to unify a plurality of formats

of image data by utilizing said image data converting unit (i.e., there are a

plurality of images of different image types, it is necessary to unify the types of all

of the image data prior to printing; see col. 11, lines 54-56).

It is noted that Tanio '389 does not disclose an image data converting unit

configured to convert a format of image data from a first format to a second

format, said first format and said second format each being one of a multi-value

format.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the

art as evidenced by Mizuyama '043. In particular, Mizuyama '043 teaches an

image data converting unit configured to convert a format of image data from a

first format to a second format, said first format and said second format each

being a multi-value format (i.e., the device may output data in a data format other than multi-value data for each channel: the device may output data in RGB or other formats that is can be converted to the aforementioned multi-value data and vice versa; see col. 31, lines 10-20).

In view of the above, having the system of Tanio and then given the well-established teaching of Mizuyama, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the system of Tanio as taught by Mizuyama to include: an image data converting unit configured to convert a format of image data from a first format to a second format, said first format and said second format each being a multi-value format, since a such modification would provide a multi-vendor network environment documents may be sent from one user to another user wherein each user may utilize different document editors to work with the document. In situations in which each user desires to edit the document within a different format it is therefore necessary to provide document transformation applications which may be utilized to convert the document from an original document type to a second document type which is manipulatable by the receiver.

Regarding claim 2, Tanio '389 discloses the apparatus, wherein said image data converting unit (Color Conversion Circuit 304, fig. 2B) converts formats of image data used by a copier (103, fig. 1), a printer (223, 224, fig. 1), a scanner (109, 110, fig. 1), and a facsimile (i.e., a copier 103 has the

transmission/reception function. Therefore, a copier 103 is also a facsimile; fig.

1, Transmission 103-2, Reception 103-1).

Regarding claim 3, Tanio '389 discloses the apparatus, wherein said

image data converting unit (304, fig. 2B) converts a format of image data by

resizing an image of the image data (i.e., each memory has a memory capacity

corresponding to images of an original of the A4 size, by connecting the two

memories, images of an original of the A3 size can be handled. Therefore, the

conversion CKT has a function of resizing image data; col. 5, lines 35-37, fig. 2A,

Frame Memory 201-202), compressing the image data (image compression, col.

9, line 7), decoding the image data (extension, col. 9, line 7), and attending to

multi-value conversion of the image data (File ID, fig. 12).

Regarding claim 4, Tanio '389 discloses the apparatus, wherein said

image data converting unit (304, fig. 2B) converts the format of image data by

hardware (the color space converting process can be executed by a hardware

circuit, col. 10, lines 48-49, fig. 2B).

Regarding claim 5, Tanio '389 discloses the apparatus, wherein said

format unifying unit (101, fig. 1) unifies the plurality of formats of image data into

one of the plurality of formats (three image types are converted and the image

data is stored into the file by the same image type, col. 12, lines 3-5, figs. 17A-

17C).

Regarding claim 6, Tanio '389 discloses the apparatus, wherein said format unifying unit (101, fig.1) includes a conversion executing unit which converts the image data by utilizing said image data converting unit according to a unified format (image input/output tasks of different control types such as CLC type, FS type, and the like can be operated according to the connected device, col. 10, lines 11-13).

Regarding claim 7, Tanio '389 discloses the apparatus, wherein said format unifying unit (101, fig. 1) includes a plurality of conversion executing units (223, 224, fig. 2A), one of which is said conversion executing unit (303, 304, 305, 306 and 307 of 223, fig. 2A), and others of which are identical to said conversion executing unit (303, 304, 305, 306 and 307 of 224, fig. 2A).

Regarding claim 8, Tanio '389 discloses the apparatus, wherein said format unifying unit (101, fig. 1) assigns the plurality of conversion executing units (the masking color processing circuit 305, fig. 2A) to respective images (the masking color processing circuit 305 executes image editing processes such as masking, UCR operating process, and the like according to the color reproducing characteristics of the color copying apparatus 103, col. 6, lines 29-32), thereby converting image data of the images (in order to accurately reconstruct the image, col. 6, line 33).

Regarding claim 9, Tanio '389 discloses the apparatus, wherein any given

one (color conversion circuit 304, fig. 2A) of said conversion executing units

converts image data of a corresponding one of the images (in case of layout-

printing three images of different image types, col. 11, lines 56-57, fig. 17A) by

utilizing said image data converting unit if a format of the image data of the

corresponding one of the images is different from the unified format (fig. 17B).

Regarding claim 10, Tanio '389 discloses the apparatus, further

comprising a consolidated printing unit (Color Conversion CKT 304, fig. 2B)

which consolidates and prints images (the resultant data is outputted to a desired

output device, col. 12, lines 7-8) whose formats are unified by said format

unifying unit (it is necessary to unify the types of all of the image data prior to

printing, col. 11, lines 55-56).

Regarding claim 11, Tanio '389 discloses the apparatus, wherein said

format unifying unit (101, fig. 1) notifies said consolidated printed unit

(CLC103/104, fig. 1) that image data is ready for consolidated printing if said

format unifying unit completes unification of the formats of image data after

conversion of at least one of the formats or because of no need for conversion of

at least one of the formats (in step S50, col. 11, line 20).

Regarding claim 12, claim 12 is the method claim of device claim 1.

Therefore, method claim 12 is rejected for the reason given in device claim 1.

Conclusion

5.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Narita et al. (US 5,694,580) discloses method of converting data and device for performing the method.

Kagawa (US 6,222,645) discloses facsimile apparatus and communication method therefor.

Yamada et al. (US 6,268,931) discloses density separation for multi-density printing.

Namizuka (US 6,934,057) discloses image-processing device independently controlling each of functions that correct density of image.

6.   **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

7.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Allen H. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-270-1229. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 9:00 AM-6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, King Poon can be reached on (571)-272-7440. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

AN

12/19/2007

KING Y. POON
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER